

memory to determine if an error has occurred and/or when a refill is expected. Additionally, the pill dispenser **112** may access the prescription stored in internal memory to determine if a scheduled pill bottle was actually inserted into a recess **13**, which may be logged for compliance tracking; for example, a bottle of **30** pills should be taken every day starting on the first day of a particular month, and if no pills were inserted into a recess **13** on the first day of the particular month, the pill dispenser **112** determines that non-compliance has occurred. The pill-bottle identifying camera **114** may capture: the time of delivery, the number of tablets, the dosage of each pill, the dosage of each scheduled oral taking of one or more pills, when the prescription was filled, a refill time, the pills indicated by the label to be in the bottle, etc. This information may be communicated to a caregiver and/or a patient having a monitoring client **2**.

[0243] FIG. **15** shows a pill dispensing mechanism **117** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. A cartridge **118** includes a plurality of containers **119** to house pills. The cartridge **118** may be rotated by a stepper motor. A sliding member **120** can slide such that a hole **121** moves adjacent to one of the containers **119** to allow the pill to dispenser. The sliding member **120** may be coupled to a linear actuator, e.g., a linear servo.

[0244] FIG. **16** shows a flow chart diagram of a method **122** for dispensing a pill in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The pill dispenser of method **122** may be any sufficient pill dispenser disclosed herein. The method **122** includes acts **123-129**.

[0245] Act **123** instructs a pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill. Act **124** instructs a first pill-viewing camera to capture a first image of the pill. Act **125** determines a presence of the pill within the first image. Act **126** instructs the first pill-viewing camera to capture a second image. Act **127** determines an absence of the pill within the second image. Act **128** instructs an identifying camera to capture a third image. Act **129** identifies a user using the third image.

[0246] A number of implementations have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made. Accordingly, other implementations are within the scope of the following claims. For example, while various principles have been described herein, it is to be understood by those skilled in the art that this description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation as to the scope of the disclosure. Other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the present disclosure in addition to the embodiments shown and described herein. Modifications and substitutions by one of ordinary skill in the art are considered to be within the scope of the present disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A pill dispenser, comprising:
  - a receptacle;
  - a pill-dispensing mechanism configured to dispense a pill via the receptacle;
  - an identifying camera positioned to capture an image of an area adjacent to the pill dispenser;
  - at least one processor in operative communication with the pill-dispensing mechanism and the identifying camera;
  - a button in operative communication with the at least one processor; and
  - a storage medium for storing processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor to:

instruct the pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense the pill, and

instruct the identifying camera to capture an image in accordance with a predetermined schedule when the button is pressed.

2. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to capture the image after a predetermined amount of time after the pill is dispensed by the pill-dispensing mechanism.

3. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to dispense the pill only when the button is pressed.

4. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to capture the image when the button is pressed.

5. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to instruct the identifying camera to capture a series of images including the image until the at least one processor identifies a presence of at least one face in a captured image of the series of captured images.

6. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to:

alert a user of a scheduled pill dispense in accordance with the predetermined schedule;

authenticate the user;

dispense the pill in accordance with the scheduled pill dispense when the button is pressed and the user is authorized; and

determine compliance of the scheduled pill dispense.

7. The pill dispenser according to claim **6**, wherein the alert includes an audibly sounded reminder that the scheduled pill dispense has occurred in accordance with the predetermined schedule.

8. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to:

store the image in the storage medium; and

encrypt the image within the storage medium.

9. The pill dispenser according to claim **8**, wherein the stored image is encrypted using a public key of a pair of asymmetrical encryption keys.

10. The pill dispenser according to claim **8**, further comprising a communication component in operative communication with the at least one processor, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to communicate the encrypted image to a server via the communication component.

11. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to:

determine whether a face within the image is an authorized user; and

communicate the image to a server with an indication of whether the face within the image is authorized.

12. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, further comprising a speaker disposed within a housing, wherein the at least one processor is in operative communication with the speaker, wherein the pill dispenser is configured to audibly sound a reminder when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

13. The pill dispenser according to claim **1**, further comprising a scale integrated into the receptacle, wherein the at least one processor is in operative communication with the scale and receives a weight therefrom and identifies the pill based upon an estimated weight of the pill using the scale.